CERTAINE Articles concerning the Statute lately made for the reliefe of the poor, to be executed in London, by the Church-wardens and Ouerseers of euery parish, according to the effect of the same Statute.

Hom: Tyson
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Imprinted by Iohn Wolfe, Printer to the honourable Citie of London. 1599.

ROGER DE COVERLY.

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ROGER

CERTAINE

ARTICLES

concerning the Statute lately made for the relieſe of the poore, to be executed in London by the Churchwardens and Ouerſeers of euery pariſh, according to the effect of the ſame Statute.

INprimis, the ſaide Churchwardens and Ouerſeers or ỳ greater part of them ſhall take order from time to time by conſent of two or more of the Juſtices of peace, for ſetting to worke of the children of all ſuch perſons within the ſame pariſh

whose parentes shall not bee thought by them able to keepe and maintaine their children. Wherin it is thought fit that childrē of eight years old or vpwards be set on worke, and such as bee twelue yeares old or vpward, if they bee not before that time bounden apprentises, be at those years bounden apprentises by the said Churchwardens and Ouerseers, according to the intent of the said Statute.

Also all such persons maried or vnmaried, as hauing no means to maintaine themselues, vse no ordinarie trade of life to get their liuing by, are to bee set on worke by the said Churchwardens and Ouerseers: Where-

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in it is thought meete that ſuch as willingly ſubmit themſelues to the lawe to worke within the pariſh, may be ſet to worke within their pariſh in theſe trades following, viz:

Or in any other trade, for which the ſaid perſons ſhall bee founde more meete, hauing ſupply of ſtocke as the law appointeth: & that ſuch as will not orderly work within their pariſh, ſhall bee ſent to Bridewell or to other places for that purpoſe to be appointed there to worke, for which purpoſe the Iuſtices of peace are readie to giue their warrantes vpon

certificate or complaint of the Churchwardens and Ouerſeers, they hauing authoritie by the ſtatute ſo to do.

The Churchwardens and Ouerſeers with conſent of the two Iuſtices of peace, muſt make a taxation of euery inhabitant within the pariſh, be they free or not free of the Citie, for a conuenient ſtocke of flaxe, hemp wooll, thread, Iron, and other neceſſarie ſtuffe, to ſet the poore on worke within the ſaide pariſh, and for a weekely allowance towardes the neceſſarie relieſe of the lame, impotent, old, blind, and ſuch other amongſt them being poore and not able to worke, and for putting poore

children apprentises: Wherein it is thought meete that they hauing due consideration of the necessitie of each person and of their abilities to worke, and of their charge do make allowance to euery one ratablie according to their wantes, and that the saide Churchwardens and Ouerseers doe collect and distribute the said taxations monethly, and dispose of the stocke according to the intent of the Statute.

And touching such ouercharge as in some parishes shall happen by occasion of the great multitude of the poore there to bee relieued, more then the weekely allowance of such parishes will supply, the Iustices of

of peace are to taxe, rate, and assesse any of any other parishes to pay such summe and summes of mony to the churchwardens & Ouerseers of ỹ said poore parish for the purposes aforesaid, as they shall thinke fit. Which taxation so made by the Iustices of peace, the Churchwardens, and ouerseers in euery parish are from time to time to receiue & collect as the other taxe, and to pay the same ouer, monthly, to the handes of the Treasurer appointed by the Citty for that purpose for the yeare, to bee by him distributed, according to the direction of the Iustices of the peace, and true intent of the saide Statute: wherein it is wished, for that some Churchwardens be ma-

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ny times very poore, that care bee had that such of the Ouerseers or Churchwardens as be of good abilitie may receiue and keepe the money collected vntill it be paid ouer as aboue.

The Churchwardens and the Ouerseers appointed must meet together at the least once euery moneth in the Church of the said parish, vpon the Sunday in the after noone, after diuine seruice, to consider of some good course to be taken, and some meete orders to bee set downe by them in the premisses, vppon paine to forfaite twenty shillinges for euery default, without lawfull cause.

The Churchwardens and

the Ouerſeers muſt within foure dayes after the end of their yeare (which beganne when the ſaid Ouerſeers were appointed) and after new Ouerſeers nominated as aforeſaid, make and yeeld vp to ſuch two Iuſtices of peace a true and perfect accompte of all ſummes of money by them receyued, or rated and ceſſed and not receyued, and of ſuch ſtocke as ſhall be in their handes, or in the handes of the poore to worke, and of all other thinges concerning their ſaid office, and ſuch ſumme or ſummes of money as ſhall be in their hands, ſhall pay and deliuer ouer to the ſaide Churchwardens and Ouerſeers newly nominated as aforeſaide,

said, vpon paine to forfaite for euery default in being negligēt in their office, or in the execution of the orders aforesaide being made by, and with the assent of the said Justices of peace, twentie shillings.

The Churchwardens and Ouerseers, or any of them are by warrant frō any two such Justices of the peace, to leuy aswel the said summes of money of euery one that shall refuse to contribute according as they shall bee assessed by distresse and sale of the offenders goodes, as the summes of money or stocke which shall be behinde vpon any account to be made as aforesaid, rendring to the party the

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ouerplus, and in default of such distresse, it is also lawfull for two Justices of the peace to commit to prison such as refuse to contribute: there to remaine without bayle or mainprise, till payment bee made of the saide summe or stocke.

And it is lawfull for any two such Justices of peace to commit to prison euery one of the said Churchwardens and Ouerseers, which shall refuse to accompt, there to remain without bayle or mainprise, till hee hath made a true account and satisfied and paid so much as vpon the said account shall be remayning in his hands.

It is also enacted, that such

persons

perſons as ſhall goe wandring abroad and beg in any place whereſoeuer by licence or without, vnleſſe it bee poore people, who ſhall aske reliefe of victuals onely in the ſame pariſh where they ſhall dwell, according to the direction of the Churchwardens and Ouerſeers, ſhall bee accompted as Rogues and ſo puniſhed. Prouided alwayes neuertheleſſe, that euery ſoldier being diſcharged of his ſeruice, or otherwiſe lawfullie licenſed to paſſe into his countrie, and not hauing wherewith to relieue himſelfe in his trauels homewards, and euery ſea-faring man landing from ſea, not hauing wherewith to relieue himſelf in his trauels

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homewardes, hauing a Testi-
moniall vnder the hand of some
one Iustice of the peace, of or
neer the place where he landed
or was discharged setting down
therein the places & time, where
and when hee landed, or was
discharged, and the place of
the parties dwelling or birth,
vnto which he is to passe, and a
conuenient time therein to bee
limitted for his passage, shal and
may without incurring the dā-
ger or penaltie of this Act, in
the vsuall wayes directly to the
place vnto which he is directed
to passe, and within the time in
such his Testimoniall limitted
for his passage, aske and receiue
such reliefe as shall be necessary
in and for his passage, the saide

Act

act or any thing therein contayned to the contrary notwithstanding.

And for that notwithstanding the liberall contribution of the parishioners, and the great trauell and care of the Churchwardens and Ouerseers in euery parish, to prouide for their owne poore be well effected: yet the negligence of the Constables in many places in suffering Rogues to wander & beg in the streetes, and the frowardnes of some stubborne beggers who will not bee reformed, doth breed a great scandall to the city, & in time wil discourage the better sort to continue any liberal contribution for the poor, vnlesse due reformation bee had for the

said

saide Rogues, and wandring beggers: it is therefore thought meet and so declared that euery Constable and other officer, who shall be found negligent, or remisse in the execution of the statute lately made for punishment of Rogues and vagabondes, shal be censured and punished so farre as the law and authority of the chiefe Magistrate in that place will allow, and that diligent inquiry of their defaults shalbe made from time to time, as shal be needfull.

FINIS.

THE EFFECT OF THE ACT OF PARliament made (for Reliefe of *the poore*) *in the xliii. yeare of* the Raigne of our Soueraigne Lady Queene Elizabeth.

ABREVIATED AND Collected for easier execution, *especiallie of so much thereof*, as concerneth the Churchwardens and Ouerseers.

Hmm! Pyson

LONDON
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